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Christopher Barkan is Professor, Executive Director of the Rail Transportation & Engineering Center and George Krambles Faculty Fellow, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Chris received his Bachelors' degree from Goddard College, and his MS and PhD from the State University of New York at Albany. Prior to moving to the U of I, he was Director of Risk Engineering at the Association of American Railroads in Washington, DC where he was employed for 10 years with principal responsibility for the rail industry's cooperative research program in environment, hazardous materials transportation safety and risk analysis. Chris moved to the University of Illinois in 1998 to direct and rejuvenate the railroad engineering academic and research programs there.